

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 and 9-11 are rejected. Various claims are amended herein. New claims 12-15 have been added. Upon belief, no new matter has been entered through the various claim amendments and new claims. Further, it is respectfully submitted that this paper is believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, “an adhesive for a polarizing plate used to adhere a transparent protective film to at least one surface of a polarizer...” In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 1, it is submitted that claim 1 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

As the other claims (e.g., claims 2-5 and 9-11) depend from claim 1, it is submitted that the aforementioned amendment to claim 1 should overcome the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Matsumoto (JPO Website Machine English Translation of JP 07-134212) in view of Kitamura (JPO Website Machine English Translation of JP 07-198945).

The rejection is traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 1 of the present application of, “an adhesive for a polarizing plate used to adhere a transparent protective film on at least one surface of a polarizer, comprising:

a crosslinking agent in the range of more than 30 parts by weight and 46 parts by weight or less relative to 100 parts by weight of a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin having an acetoacetyl group.

The Examiner admits that the partial acetalization polyvinyl alcohol resin disclosed in Matsumoto (JP07-134212 [0011]) is a polyvinyl alcohol resin containing an acetyl group, and the Examiner alleges that Matsumoto discloses the polyvinyl alcohol resin containing an acetyl group according to the present invention.

Acetalization, however, involves a chemical structure, which is represented by the general formula (-O-CH(R)-O-), obtained by reacting a hydroxyl group and an aldehyde, while a chemical structure of acetyl group is -O-CO-CH₃. The chemical structure obtained by acetalization and the acetyl group are completely different in structure. Further, an acetoacetyl group is -O-CO-CH₂-CO-CH₃, which is, of course, different from the structure obtained by

acetalization. Therefore, the Examiner misunderstands the partially acetalization polyvinyl alcohol resin in Matsumoto.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner made a judgment based on such a misunderstanding, and as such, claim 1 of the present application (an adhesive wherein a crosslinker is incorporated in an acetoacetylated polyvinyl alcohol in a predetermined proportion (more than 30 to 46 parts by weight / 100 parts weight)) is neither disclosed in Matsumoto or Kitamura (JP07-198945), nor obvious therefrom. In addition, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious as providing unexpected advantageous effects, due to such an adhesive, as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Claims 2-4 and 9-11 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the reason of their dependency.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

New Claims

Support for the recitations of claim 12 may be found in at least page 15, lines 10-15 of the Specification.

Additionally, new claims 13 and 14 are herein added, which are based on claim 2. Further, regarding claim 14, Matsumoto does not disclose that the crosslinker used is a compound having a methylol group.

Regarding new claim 15, since the example in Matsumoto (paragraph [0019]) describes the thickness of the polarizing plate (about 0.1 μm), it is submitted that Matsumoto does not specifically disclose the recitations of new claim 15.

Official Notice

In the outstanding Office Action at page 5, the Examiner contends, "Furthermore, an optical film comprising the polarizing plate, such as a film laminate of an optical compensator with the polarizing plate, for the purpose of modifying the polarized light, is well known in the art ... and to have provided an optical film comprising the polarizing the polarizing plate in the display, in order to further modify the polarized light, such as with an optical compensator, as is well known in the art."

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's statements are traversed, and further, it is requested that the Examiner produce authority for the statements.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/542,930
Art Unit: 1794

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 052805

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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